

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 9.

Please amend the claims to read as follows.

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1. A loading device for loading a web forming wire, said loading device comprising:
a fixed base member;
a movable loading member coupled to said base member, said loading member structured and arranged to move in a vertical fashion relative to said base member to thereby apply a loading force to said wire, wherein said vertical movement of said loading member is generated by introducing a pressure medium below said movable loading member;
roller means including at least one roller structured and arranged to support said loading member such that the force generated against said loading member by said wire is directed against a side of said roller whereby jamming of said loading member is prevented.

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5. The loading device according to claim 2, wherein in said roller means comprises a plurality of rollers arranged at selected intervals in the cross-machine direction and wherein said slide rail has a plurality of indentations, each one of said indentations being structured and arranged for receiving one of said plurality of rollers.

Marked-up version of claims as amended.

1. A loading device for loading a web forming wire, said loading device comprising:

a fixed base member;

a movable loading member coupled to said base member, said loading member structured and arranged to move in a vertical fashion relative to said base member to thereby apply a loading force to said wire, wherein said vertical movement of said loading member is generated by introducing a pressure medium below said movable loading member;

roller means including at least one roller structured and arranged to support said loading member such that the force generated against said loading member by said wire is directed against a side of said roller [and to prevent] whereby jamming of said loading member is prevented.

5. The loading device according to claim 2, wherein in said roller means comprises a plurality of rollers arranged at selected intervals in the cross-machine direction and wherein said slide rail has a plurality of indentations, each one of said indentations being structured and arranged for receiving one of said plurality of rollers.